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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00
MCT-01 SY-05 /107 W
----------041403 081208Z /53
P 081055Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7717
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
MAC SCOTT AF BASE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA, PINT, ASEC
SUBJECT: STATE OF PLAY ON NARITA OPENING

REF: TOKYO 5532

SUMMARY: DURING PAST SEVEN DAYS, FOUR FIREBOMB EXPLOSIONS

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AND ONE MAJOR DEMONSTRATION IN TOKYO HAVE INDICATED ANTI-NARITA GROUPS ARE GEARING UP THEIR CAMPAIGN TO BLOCK SCHEDULED AIRPORT OPENING MAY 20. HOWEVER, GOJ CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSES IN AIRPORT AREA AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PRIMIN FUKUDA INDICATE CONTINUED GOJ DETERMINATION TO OPEN ON SCHEDULE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING PAST WEEK, OPPOSITION GROUPS, THROUGH SERIES OF MINOR BOMBINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS, HAVE SERVED NOTICE THAT RELATIVE CALM WHICH FOLLOWED POSTPONEMENT OF NARITA AIRPORT OPENING IN MARCH IS OVER, AND OPPOSITION GROUPS ARE GEARING UP FOR FULL-SCALE CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO BLOCK SCHEDULED OPENING MAY 20. THREE BOMBINGS OCCURRED IN WESTERN JAPAN MORE THAN 300 MILES FROM NARITA: MAY 1 AT OSAKA PREFECTURAL POLICE PISTOL TARGET RANGE: MAY 2 AT UNMANNED AVIATION BEACON FACILITY NEAR HIROSHIMA AIRPORT, AND ALSO ON MAY 2 AT THE JAL CENTRAL OFFICE IN TAKAMATSU. ON MAY 6 FOUR SPECIAL RAILWAY CARS DESIGNATED FOR AIRPORT SERVICE WERE BURNED AT TRAIN DEPOT OF KAISAI PRIVATE RAIL-WAY LINE, TEN KILOMETERS FROM NARITA, AND ON MAY 7 HOME OF DIRECTOR OF NARITA KOGYO, CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE FIRM SET UP BY FARMERS WHO SOLD FARMLAND TO NARITA AIRPORT, WAS BURNED WITH A GASOLINE TIME BOMB. ALL EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED AT NIGHT AND WITH EXCEPTION OF TRAIN DEPOT EXPLOSIONS,WHICH HEAVILY DAMAGED FOUR CARS, PROPERTY DAMAGE HAS BEEN LIMITED AND NO ONE HAS BEEN INJURED. HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

ATTACK ON NARITA KOGYO, FIRST OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED AGAINST PRIVATE RESIDENCE IN NARITA AREA, HAS REPORTEDLY CREATED SPECIAL CONCERN AMONG POLICE AS POSSIBLE INDICATION THAT RADICAL GROUPS MAY BEGIN KIND OF INDISCRIMINATE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD THREATEN LIVES NOT ONLY OF POLICE-MEN BUT ALSO OF RESIDENTS IN NARITA AREA. CENTER CORE FACTION (CHUKAKUHA), ONE OF MAJOR LEFT WING RADICAL GROUPS, HAS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR BOMBINGS.

2. ON MAY 7, POLICE ESTIMATED OVER SEVEN THOUSAND PERSONS GATHERED IN TOKYO FOR "NATIONAL RALLY" SPONSORED BY SANRI-ZUKA-SHIBAYAMA ANTI-NARITA AIRPORT ALLIANCE, UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR VARIOUS FARMER AND RADICAL STUDENT OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES. DURING RALLY, SPEAKERS DEMANDED GOJ FREEZE PLANS TO OPEN AIRPORT MAY 20, RETRACT PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE POLICE CONTROL OF RADICALS IN NARITA AREA, AND PAROLE THREE LEADERS OF OPPOSITION MOVEMENT BEING HELD FOR CRIMES COMMITTED DURING MARCH 26 RIOT AT NARITA. PRIOR TO RALLY, ISSAKU TOMITA, LEADER OF ALLIANCE, HAD STATED OPPOSITION GROUPS WOULD STAGE SERIES OF DEMONSTRATIONS MAY 18-21 DESIGNED TO PREVENT OPENING. THREE THOUSAND RIOT POLICE WERE MOBILIZED TO CONTAIN

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DEMONSTRATION, WHICH, WITH EXCEPTION OF STONE THROWING INCIDENTS IN ONE LOCATION, ENDED PEACEFULLY AFTER MARCH THROUGH DOWNTOWN TOKYO AREA.

3. NARITA AUTHORITIES AND POLICE MEANWHILE CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN DEFENSE MEASURES FOR NEW AIRPORT. IT WAS

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ANNOUNCED APRIL 27 THAT CONTROL TOWER DAMAGED IN RADICAL ATTACK MARCH 26 HAD BEEN FULLY REPAIRED (AT COST OF $580,000 AND WOULD BE READY FOR OPERATIONS MAY 7. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS MAY 7, NEW FACILITIES AT CONTROL TOWER INCLUDE HEAVY STEEL DOORS TO GUARD AGAINST REPEAT OF RADICAL INTRUSION MARCH 26, WHILE OTHER DOORS THROUGHOUT AIRPORT FACILITIES HAVE ALSO BEEN REINFORCED WITH STEEL PLATING AND ELECTRONIC LOCKS. LATCHES HAVE BEEN PLACED ON 600 MANHOLE COVERS ON AIRPORT GROUNDS TO DENY RADICALS ACCESS THROUGH SEWER SYSTEM AS OCCURRED ON MARCH 26. TEN-FOOT-HIGH FENCE AROUND NARITA AIRPORT HAS BEEN REINFORCED AND STEEL SHEETS HAVE BEEN BURIED UNDER FENCE IN SOME AREAS TO DETER TUNNELING. COST OF THESE MEASURES ACCORDING TO PRESS HAS BEEN OVER $14 MILLION. IN ADDITION NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY (NPA) ANNOUNCED MAY 4 THAT FOR ONE WEEK FOLLOWING OPENING OF NEW AIRPORT ONLY PASSENGERS AND AIRPORT WORKERS WOULD BE ALLOWED INTO NEW AIRPORT. NPA AUTHORITIES ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING CHECKPOINTS ALONG TRAFFIC ROUTES TO AIRPORT FROM TOKYO. BOTH MEASURES ARE EXPECTED TO ADD TO CONGESTION AND TRAFFIC DELAYS, BUT POLICE HAVE REPORTEDLY DECIDED THAT SAFETY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PASSENGER INCONVENIENCE FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

4. MEANWHILE, LDP IN COOPERATION WITH NEW LIBERAL CLUB, DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY AND CLEAN GOVERNMENT PARTY PUSHED BILL DESIGNED TO PERMIT POLICE TO ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY IN NARITA AIRPORT AREA TO REMOVE HUTS BEING USED BY RADICAL GROUPS THROUGH LOWER HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MAY 4. ACCORDING TO LDP SOURCES, BILL WILL BE PASSED BY LOWER HOUSE MAY 9 AND UPPER HOUSE MAY 12. ALTHOUGH BOTH JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY ARE REPORTEDLY OPPOSED TO NEW LAW ON CIVIL RIGHTS
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GROUNDS, LDP INSIDERS SAY NEITHER PARTY WILL ACTIVELY OPPOSE PASSAGE WHEN MEASURE COMES UP FOR VOTE, BECAUSE THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO APPEAR TOO SYMPATHETIC TO RADICALS IN WAKE OF NARITA INCIDENT. IN SIMILAR "CONSTRUCTIVE VEIN," SOKYO SECGEN TOMIZAKA REPORTED IN EVENING PRESS MAY 8 AS OFFERING TO MEDIATE BETWEEN GOJ AND OPPOSITION RESIDENTS, POSSIBLY HOLDING OUT AS BAIT FURTHER DELAY IN OPENING.

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5. AS OPENING DATE APPROACHES, HOWEVER, GOJ LEADERS CONTINUE TO REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO OPENING ON SCHEDULE DESPITE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS. PRIMIN FUKUDA, AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN HONOLULU MAY 5, PLACED NARITA NUMBER TWO (AFTER JAPAN-ROK CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT LEGISLATION) ON HIS LIST OF MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEMS FACING HIM ON HIS RETURN FROM SUMMIT MEETING IN WASHINGTON, WHILE CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ABE STATED MAY 4 THAT GOJ WOULD OPEN NARITA "NO MATTER WHAT." MANSFIELD

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2757704
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATE OF PLAY ON NARITA OPENING
TAGS: PINT, ASEC, EAIR, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79a92aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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